

VOTE - Voter Outreach Through Education
Washington Secretary of State

WASHINGTON STATE CURRICULUM GRADES 8-12
STUDENT HANDOUT, LESSON 1

THEME: BALLOTS, POLLS & VOTING BOOTHS

"The hottest places in Hades are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, remain neutral." (Dante)

ACTIVITY: ONE (B)

Examine pictures 1-10, images of various aspects of the voting process, then answer the questions that follow. Sharpen your focus; look for both details and the overall impression that each image conveys. The rhetorical questions next to the pictures are simply to help you examine the pictures more closely.

Image 1:

#1

"Vote Here" is the message. Is it a command or an invitation that beckons you to participate in democracy? This is in an English-speaking nation, but which one? What time period do you think this is? Where? What clues do you notice?



Image 2:

#2

Nisei voters in a U.S. internment camp for Japanese-Americans, 1942, during World War II. Notice the voting booth and the ballot box, as well as the age of the voters.



Image 3:

#3

African-American woman boarding a bus to the polling place so she can vote in the 1970s. Notice her age. Who provided the bus?



Image 4:

#4

Women in New York City march to obtain the right to vote in 1912, eight years before the 19th Amendment. Notice that most are dressed alike; why is that? Where are the men in the photo? How large is the crowd observing the parade?



Image 5:

#5

Citizens in Sierra Leone answer the call and queue up to vote. If you didn't know the location, where might you think it is? What impressions are you left with as you examine the photo? What clues are there to help you compare this voting system to ours?



Image 6:

#6

A woman in Poland is exercising her elective franchise in this century. Notice the ballot and the ballot box. Compare this to image 2.



Image 7:

#7

Election Day at the polling place brings Americans together. Notice the voting technique compared to those in other images. Should these be called stations or booths? Notice the vertical dividers between voters.



Image 8:

#8

Voting is an activity shared by all types of people, some requiring special accommodation. Some have temporary challenges attending a polling place; others have lifetime special needs.



Images 9 & 10:

#9

#10

Privacy lends reliability to the process and the results of voting. Voters' needs for privacy are accommodated.



Now, write a paper that explains what you discerned from the images by answering these questions. The answers should be one or two paragraphs in length for each letter below.

- A. What do you observe about the differences between the various voting techniques in these images? Is there one way that seems better to you than the others in these images; e.g., are voting machines better than paper ballots and a box?
- B. Do you notice anything that the people seem to have in common regardless of time period or location?
- C. Does the process seem less formal than you thought it might be? How formal do you think it should be?
- D. Can you find a common theme that flows through several images? Support your view with evidence from the pictures.
- E. Were you surprised at anything you saw? Are there any new insights you have about voting, past or present, near or far from what you have seen?